REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants thank the Examiner for both the express withdrawal of the previous rejection, and the allowance of claims 8-12.

As a second preliminary matter, claims 9 and 11 stand objected to for antecedent basis informalities. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claims 9 and 11 consistently with the amendments made to their base claim 8 in Amendment A, filed May 21, 2004. Claims 9 and 11 now more clearly recite that the orientation control element recited in the claims is actually the first orientation control element from independent claim 8. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection in light of these amendments.

Claim 33 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kim et al. (U.S. 6,567,144). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because the cited reference does not disclose (or suggest) that the first orientation regulating force is given by an orientation control element provided on the same substrate as the pixel electrode near an edge of the substrate, as in claim 33 of the present invention, as amended.

Claim 33 of the present invention has been amended herein to more clearly recite that the first orientation regulating force, which counteracts the second orientation regulating force, is given by an orientation control element locally provided near an edge of the first substrate. In other words, since the pixel electrode is also recited to be on the first substrate, the locally provided orientation control element (which gives the first force) is on the same substrate as the pixel electrode. Kim does not disclose (or suggest) such features.

As shown in Figs. 7-8 of Kim, the protrusion 17 and its branch 171 are provided on the substrate 100 opposite the pixel electrode 20, and not locally provided near an edge of the substrate 200 that holds the pixel electrode. Kim therefore fails to read upon this amended language of claim 33. Moreover, Kim further fails to teach (or suggest) the additional clarifications to claim 33 made herein, namely, that the first orientation regulating force is given in a direction parallel to the orientation control element on the pixel substrate, and/or that a third orientation regulating force is given that orients the liquid crystal molecules in a direction different from the first and second orientation regulating forces. Accordingly, for at least these reasons, the Section 102 rejection of claim 33 based on Kim is respectfully traversed.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this Application, including claims 8-12, and 33, is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if a further interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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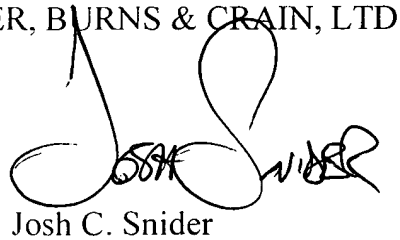
By 

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